

What Is Claimed Is:

Sub A1

1. A mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner, comprising:
an interface charged rechargeable power supply that powers the
fingerprint scanner during mobile use; and

5 a data and power communication interface that couples data
between the fingerprint scanner and a docking station, and that provides power
to charge said interface charged rechargeable power supply; whereby, a dedicated
plug for recharging a power supply separate from a data interface can be avoided.

10 2. The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 1, wherein said
interface charged rechargeable power supply includes at least one rechargeable
battery.

15 3. The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said
interface charged rechargeable power supply includes a charging circuit that
regulates the charging of said at least one rechargeable battery when the
fingerprint scanner is receiving power through the powered interface.

4. The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 3, wherein said
charging circuit regulates the rate of charging of said at least one rechargeable
battery.

20 5. The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said
interface charged rechargeable power supply includes a voltage regulator circuit
that maintains a substantially constant output system voltage from the
rechargeable battery during mobile use.

6. The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said powered interface comprises a universal serial bus (USB).

7. The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said powered interface comprises an IEEE1394 compatible interface.

8. The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 3, wherein said charging circuit regulates the rate of charging of said at least one rechargeable battery.

9. The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said at least one rechargeable battery comprises at least one nickel cadmium battery.

10. A method for charging a mobile fingerprint scanner comprising the step of:

charging a rechargeable power supply in the mobile fingerprint scanner with power carried over a data and communication interface.

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